



## **Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks**

Region 2 Office  
3201 Spurgin Road  
Missoula, MT 59804-3099  
January 30, 2003

Governor's Office, Attn: Todd O'Hair, PO Box 200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801

Environmental Quality Council, PO Box 201704, Helena, MT 59620-1704

\*Dept. of Environmental Quality, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901

\*Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation, POB 201601, Helena, MT 59620-1601

\*Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks:

Website, Commission Secretary, Division Secretaries, Regional Office Managers, Lands

\*State Historic Preservation Office, PO Box 201202, Helena, MT 59620-1202

\*MT State Library, PO Box 201800, Helena, MT 59620-1800

Jim Jensen, MT Environmental Information Center, POB 1184, Helena, MT 59624-1184

Montana Wildlife Federation, Box 1175, Helena, MT 59624-1175

George Ochenski, PO Box 689, Helena, MT 59624

Ravalli County Commissioners, 215 South 4<sup>th</sup> St., Hamilton, MT 59840

Ravalli County Office of Planning, 215 South 4<sup>th</sup> St., Hamilton, MT 59840

Ravalli County Fish and Wildlife Association, PO Box 238, Hamilton, MT 59840

Bitterroot Trout Unlimited, PO Box 262, Hamilton, MT 59840

Representative Bob Raney, 212 South 6<sup>th</sup>, Livingston, MT 59047

Representative Bob Lake, 241 Daly, Hamilton, MT 59840

Representative Ron Stoker, 332 North Gold Creek Loop, Hamilton, MT 59840

Senator Rick Laible, 529 Moose Hollow Rd., Victor, MT 59875

\*Mailed electronically

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

The enclosed Environmental Assessment (EA) is for your consideration. It was prepared for the leasing of Anglers Roost as a public fishing access and the construction of a boat ramp and signs. This EA is available for review at FWP's Helena Headquarters, the State Library, and Environmental Quality Council in Helena, or on FWP's website at [www.fwp.state.mt.us](http://www.fwp.state.mt.us) under "Public Notices." Comments will be accepted until 5 P.M. on March 3, 2003. If you have questions, feel free to contact Chris Clancy at 406-363-7169. All comments should be sent to Chris Clancy, FWP, 1801 N. 1, Hamilton, MT 59840. Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Mack Long  
Regional Supervisor

# MEPA/NEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST

## PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. **Type of Proposed State Action** Lease of property for a Fishing Access Site

2. **Agency Authority for the Proposed Action** 23-1-102, 87-1-209

3. **Name of Project** Angler's Roost Fishing Access Site Lease

4. **Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor (if other than the agency)**

5. **If Applicable:**

Estimated Construction/Commencement Date Spring 03

Estimated Completion Date Spring 03

Current Status of Project Design (% complete)

6. **Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range and township)**

Ravalli County, T5N, R20W, S12

7. **Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:**

(a) Developed:  
residential .....\_\_ acres  
industrial.....\_\_ acres

(b) Open Space/Woodlands/  
Recreation ..... 3.75 acres

(c) Wetlands/Riparian  
Areas ..... 0.5\_\_ acres

(d) Floodplain ....Approximately 2.0\_\_ acres

(e) Productive:  
irrigated cropland .....\_\_ acres  
dry cropland .....\_\_ acres  
forestry .....\_\_ acres  
rangeland .....\_\_ acres  
other .....\_\_ acres

8. **Map/site plan: attach an original 8 1/2" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached.**

Revised 1/30/2003

**9. Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action or Project including the Benefits and Purpose of the Proposed Action.**

Angler's Roost is located south of Missoula in the Bitterroot valley (Figure 1). The private campground/RV park lies 3 miles south of Hamilton on Hwy 93. It includes a gas station and store that sells groceries and fishing and hunting supplies. It has been used by the public to access the Bitterroot River without a fee for many years. This reach of the Bitterroot River is heavily fished by anglers both from shore and boats. Anglers Roost is the only reasonable access for boats in this reach of river. The heavy use by the public is evidence that it is strategically located for this use.

FWP proposes to lease a fishing access within the Angler's Roost Campground for 10 years. As part of the lease agreement, FWP will pay \$500/year and construct a concrete boat ramp (Figures 2 & 3) at the site of the existing boat launch site (Figure 4). FWP will also sign the site as a public fishing access. A portion of the property will provide vehicle parking and angler access to the Bitterroot River.

Public access to the property will be made directly from US 93 as it has in the past. Directional signing will be placed along Hwy 93 to direct the public.

Proposed facilities include a boat ramp and signing. The boat ramp will be built at the site of the existing eroded boat slide. Fishing access site signs will be posted on Highway 93 and at the campground to direct anglers. The proposed lease agreement is attached.

Anglers Roost was part of the Public Lands Fishing Access program that was funded by the 2001 Legislature under House Bill 292.

**10. Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.**

(a) Permits:  
Agency Name                      Permit                      Date Filed/#

(b) Funding:  
Agency Name                      Funding Amount

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:  
Agency Name                      Type of Responsibility

**11. List of Agencies Consulted during Preparation of the EA:**

## **PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

### **PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

1. <u>LAND RESOURCES</u>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>3</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>3</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>3</sup>	None	Minor <sup>3</sup>	Potentially Significant		
<a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				1a.
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil which would reduce productivity or fertility?		X				
<c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				1c.
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?			X			1d.
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				
f. Other						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

1a. The concrete boat ramp will help to alleviate any soil erosion that may be occurring. The side slopes to the ramp will be re-vegetated to reduce erosion.

1c. This project will not destroy, cover or modify any unique geologic or physical features.

1d. The concrete boat ramp will be constructed over the existing boat ramp which is a sand bottom slide that has been used for many years. Occasionally, FWP will help gravel the existing road that approaches the boat ramp.

- <sup>3</sup> Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- < Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ≤ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ≤≤ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

2. <u>AIR</u>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>3</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>3</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>3</sup>	None	Minor <sup>3</sup>	Potentially Significant		
< a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (also see 13 (c))		X				2a.
b. Creation of objectionable odors?		X				
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
e. For P-R/D-J projects, will the project result in any discharge which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a)						
f. Other						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Air Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

1a. During construction of the boat ramp, there will be exhaust emissions from the equipment. This is not a big project and should take a short time to construct.

- 3 Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- < Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ≤ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ≤≤ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

## PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

3. <u>WATER</u>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated?	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
< a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?			X			3a.
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?		X				
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of flood water or other flows?		X				3c.
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		X				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
ℳℓ. For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c)						
ℳm. For P-R/D-J, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a)						
n. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

3 a & c. Construction of a boat ramp may cause a minor amount of turbidity. The work will be completed during low flows to minimize turbidity. A Ravalli County Floodplain permit will be obtained.

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- ℳ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- < Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ℳ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ℳℓ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

## PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

4. <u>VEGETATION</u>	IMPACT <sup>3</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>3</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>3</sup>	None	Minor <sup>3</sup>	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?			X			4a.
b. Alteration of a plant community?			X			4b.
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?		X				
<del>cc</del> f. For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?						
g. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

4 a & b. The boat ramp will cover an area where little vegetation exists but some grasses will likely be displaced.

- 3 Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- < Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ~~cc~~ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ~~cc~~ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

## PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

< 5. <u>FISH/WILDLIFE</u>	IMPACT <sup>3</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>3</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>3</sup>	None	Minor <sup>3</sup>	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?			X			5g.
4zh. For P-R/D-J, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f)						
4zi. For P-R/D-J, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d)						
j. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

5. The site is already heavily used by the public and that will not change. Bald eagles use the area seasonally but no nests are found nearby. Osprey nest nearby, however, this project should not change the public use patterns from the past.

5g. There could be an increase in the amount of public use at this site.

- 3 Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- < Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- 4 Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- 44 Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.



## HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

6. <u>NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS</u>	IMPACT <sup>3</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>3</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>3</sup>	None	Minor <sup>3</sup>	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Increases in existing noise levels?			X			6a.
b. Exposure of people to serve or nuisance noise levels?			X			6b.
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				
e. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

6 a & b. If increased use occurs, there is potential for more noise from cars and people using the site. Also, during construction of the boat ramp, heavy machinery will be used which will cause increased noise.

- 3 Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- < Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ≤ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ≤≤ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

## HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

7. <u>LAND USE</u>	IMPACT <sup>3</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>3</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>3</sup>	None	Minor <sup>3</sup>	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		X				
b. Conflicted with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				7c.
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		X				
e. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

7c. The existing use would continue.

- 3 Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- < Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ≤ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ≤≤ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

8. <u>RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS</u>	IMPACT <sup>3</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>3</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>3</sup>	None	Minor <sup>3</sup>	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?		X				
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create a need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		X				
4d. For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)						
e. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- 3 Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- < Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- 4 Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- 44 Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

## HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

9. <u>COMMUNITY IMPACT</u>	IMPACT <sup>3</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>3</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>3</sup>	None	Minor <sup>3</sup>	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?			X			9c.
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?			X			9d.
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?			X			9e.
f. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

.9 c & d. The lease of a fishing access at this site will benefit the community by providing a location where they can easily reach the Bitterroot River for recreational purposes as they have in the past.

9e. Signing of the site may increase the use somewhat, which would mean more traffic entering and exiting Highway 93. Directional signing will be placed along Hwy 93 which may help minimize safety concerns.

- 3 Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- < Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ≤ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ≤≤ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

## HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

10. <u>PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES</u>	IMPACT <sup>3</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>3</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>3</sup>	None	Minor <sup>3</sup>	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify: _____		X				
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		X				
d. Will the proposed action result in increased used of any energy source?		X				
< e. Define projected revenue sources		X				10e.
< f. Define projected maintenance costs.			X			10f.
g. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

10 MFWP will pay for an occasional load of gravel or minor maintenance costs associated with public recreational use of this site.

10e. There are not projected revenue sources from this property.

10f. Maintenance cost will be minimal. The landowner is responsible for maintenance, but FWP will occasionally help maintain the road leading to the boat ramp. Coordinating the maintenance activity needed at this site with other FAS sites will minimize the costs.

- 3 Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- < Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
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- ≤≤ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

## HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

< 11. <u>AESTHETICS/RECREATION</u>	IMPACT <sup>3</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>3</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>3</sup>	None	Minor <sup>3</sup>	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		X				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		X				
<c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report)			X			11c.
çd. For P-R/D-I, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c)						
e. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

11. Access to Montana's rivers has been very important to the general public for decades. Part of FWP's mission is to provide for public access. Typically, FWP acquires or leases land to accomplish this goal. This is a situation where FWP was able to lease a site within the campground for access to the Bitterroot River.

11c. This reach of river has been accessible for free through the courtesy of the owner's of this campground for many years. Because it is private property, FWP utilized the Private Lands Fishing Access funding source to secure a 1-year lease.

- 3 Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- < Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ç Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- çç Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

## HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

12. <u>CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES</u>	IMPACT <sup>3</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>3</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>3</sup>	None	Minor <sup>3</sup>	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
<a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?		X				12a.
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
ccd. For P-R/D-J, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? <b>Attach SHPO letter of clearance.</b> (Also see 12.a)						
e. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

12a. Prior to site development, MDFWP will conduct a cultural survey of the property and will consult the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

- 3 Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- < Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- cc Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ccd Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

## HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE	IMPACT <sup>3</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>3</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>3</sup>	None	Minor <sup>3</sup>	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:						
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				
cf. For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e)						
ccg. For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

13g. Permits required for the project include a SPA 124 from Fish , Wildlife and Parks, a Ravalli County Floodplain permit, and a US Army Corps of Engineers 404 permit.

- 3 Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- < Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- cc Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ccg Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.



2. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:

- A. No action alternative. If MFWP does not lease this access, the owner of the property may decide someday to no longer allow public access and therefore, the public would lose access to this portion of the Bitterroot River. It would require FWP to acquire another parcel of land to replace what would be lost.
- B. Acquire a parcel of land that would provide access to the Bitterroot River. Currently, there is not a parcel of land available and if there was it would have to compete for funding on a statewide basis. It could potentially take many years to accomplish this alternative.

3. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:

FWP 124 permit  
Ravalli County Flood Permit  
Army Corps 404 Permit

4. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? YES / NO If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:

An Environmental Assessment (EA) is the appropriate level of analysis for this project since no impacts could be classified as being potentially significant.

5. Describe the level of public involvement for this project if any and, given the complexity and the seriousness of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate under the circumstances?

This EA will be advertised through the legal section of the local papers. There will also be a copy of this EA available for public review at the regional headquarters and on the state network. There will be a 30- day public comment period.

6. Duration of comment period if any:

30-day

7. Name, title, address and phone number of the Person(s) Responsible for Preparing the EA:

Chris Clancy  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
1800 North 1<sup>st</sup> St.  
Hamilton, MT 59840  
363-5719  
e-mail: cclancy@fs.fed.us

Lee Bastian  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
3201 Spurgin Rd.  
Missoula, MT 59804  
e-mail: [lbastian@state.mt.us](mailto:lbastian@state.mt.us)

## PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

- ⇒ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- < Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- α Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- αα Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

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- ∠ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ∠∠ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.